

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-21, and 31-40 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 6, and 12 are herein amended. Claims 2-3, and 22-30 are canceled with this response. Examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121 AND 372

Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372 as being directed to distinct inventions. The distinct inventions were identified as follows:

Group I: claims 1, 4, 13-21, and 31-40 drawn to a puncturing and de-puncturing arrangement for a transmitting/receiving system; and

Group II: claims 2-3, 5-12, and 22-30 drawn to an interleaver and de-interleaver for a transmitting/receiving system.

Applicant hereby elects Group I directed to claims 1, 4, 13-21, and 31-40 without traverse. Applicant herein amends Claims 5-6, and 12 to now be dependent upon the elected claim set. Therefore additional Claims 5-12 are now associated with Group I and should also be examined. Claims 2-3, and 22-30 are canceled with this response.

II. CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, LLP134WOUS.

Respectfully submitted,
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